



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT:

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EQ Response: OES Activates State Operations Center 24/7, Dispatches Firefighters Aftershock Advisory Issued

SACRAMENTO – In response to the 6.5-magnitude San Simeon Earthquake in San Luis Obispo County, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services has activated emergency operations centers 24/7, has dispatched firefighters to fires and a collapsed structure within the county, and warns of large aftershocks.

"This is the largest earthquake we've had in California since the 1994 Northridge Earthquake," said Director Dallas Jones. "We are assessing the needs of the community moment by moment and responding with necessary resources."

The earthquake that struck at 11:15 a.m. today led to a large commercial fire in Cambria and the collapse of a clock tower in Paso Robles. Upon the county's request, OES dispatched two, six-member heavy rescue Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces from Ventura County to rescue people trapped in the rubble. OES also dispatched firefighters from Fresno, Tulare, and Santa Barbara counties, including those from local government agencies and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The public is advised that there is a 90 percent or greater probability that there will be strong aftershocks of 5.0 magnitude or greater within the next seven days. There is a 5 percent to 10 percent probability of an earthquake equal to or larger than the main shock within that time. Further, approximately 120 to 200 small aftershocks are expected within the same seven day period and may be felt locally, or more than 40 miles away.

"It is critical that we are all prepared to practice earthquake safety," said Jones.

If indoors when shaking begins, protect yourself from falling objects by ducking beneath a sturdy desk or table if it is safe to do so. Hang on to the furniture to

prevent it from sliding away and leaving you exposed. If no furniture is available, crouch and cover your head at the base of an interior wall or hallway, away from windows, bookshelves, mirrors or other damaging objects. If driving, pull over to the side of the road. Once the shaking stops assist people who might be trapped or injured, and exit the building.

Get prepared now by packing an earthquake preparedness kit. A kit should include a portable radio with extra batteries so as to listen for emergency instructions. It should also include a flashlight with extra batteries and enough food, water and medical supplies to sustain you and your family for three days. Emergency crews might only be available to assist the most critically injured immediately after an earthquake. Additional information is available at www.oes.ca.gov.

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